

Advisory Bulletin No. 1  
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# Calendar of Field Operations for tea in Assam

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by S. K. Dutta, B. C. Barbora and J. Chakravartee and  
as 'Planting Calendar for Cachar' by T. K. Ghosh in December 1971)

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# January

## 1. Nursery

- (a) Clonal : Start preparing nursery beds. Water or irrigate the already planted cuttings
- (b) Seed : Complete sowing of seed. Water or irrigate if necessary.
- (c) Shade : Water or irrigate if necessary.

## 2. Planting

- (a) Tea : Except in Upper Assam and in parts of Central Assam where rainfall distribution is even, do not plant without irrigation facilities
- (b) Shade : Do not plant.

## 3. Pruning and skiffing

- (a) Young tea : Check root starch reserve. If found adequate, start pruning and centering out by mid to end January. In droughty areas pruning should be done before leaves start wilting.
- (b) Mature tea :
  - i) Medium prune : Complete by middle or end of the month.
  - ii) Light prune : In droughty areas complete by second week. In non-droughty areas complete by beginning of the month.
  - iii) Deep skiff : In droughty areas complete by middle of the month. In non-droughty areas complete by first week.
  - iv) Medium skiff : In droughty areas complete by last week. In non-droughty areas complete by second week.
  - v) Light skiff : In droughty areas, complete by last week. In non-droughty areas complete by second week.
  - vi) Level-off skiff : In droughty areas complete by last week. In non-droughty areas complete by second week.
  - Cleaning out : Hand debanjhi, knife and hand cleaning out operations should be completed in pruned/deep skiffed areas.
- (c) Mother bushes : Prune clonal mother bushes for June-July propagation.

## 4. Manuring

Wait for ground manuring. Continue foliar application of MOP in dry spell.

## 5. Plucking

Pluck off banjhi shoots in tea left unpruned and without a level-off skiff.

## 6. Rehabilitation and green crops

Nothing needs to be done.

## 7. Mulching

Mulch all newly planted areas.

## 8. Drainage

Start cleaning of all drains. Deepen and/or regrade if necessary. Subsidiary drains should be deepened upto 100 cm in flat lands and upto 45 cm in contour drains in teela slopes.

## 9. Weed control and cultivation

- (a) Chemical : Do not start.
- (b) Manual : Start cold weather operations like uprooting of ferns and hardy weeds. If manual weed control is practised, start cheeling/sickling in non-droughty areas.
- (c) Ground levelling, where necessary, should be done.
- (d) Fork/light hoe after cut across/medium pruning specially in heavy textured soil to improve soil aeration. Defer these operations to March in drought prone areas.

## 10. Pest and disease control

- (a) Check all spraying equipment. Replace the worn out parts and paint corroded parts. Test the sprayers for correct output pressure. Keep ready the drums, tins and pesticides. These works should be finished in the first fortnight.
- (b) Check for initial infestation of *Helopeltis*, red spider and other mites and spray immediately if observed. Where necessary, spray a blanket round. Sections earmarked for unprune, if infested by *Helopeltis*, pluck off infested shoots even from below the table.  
  
Check for damage by thrips and jassids, if necessary, spray thoroughly the foliage and cracks and crevices in the bush frame. Spray also soil surface to kill the pupae of thrips. Young tea and nursery plants with some succulent growth should be sprayed against thrips and jassids.  
  
Control red slug caterpillar by coinciding spraying with its emergence. Hand collection of chrysalids from the fork of the branches, leaf fold, dry fallen leaves and prunings on the ground. Light trapping of moths from severely affected areas.  
  
Continue control measures against termites in deep skiffed, light and medium pruned areas.
- (c) Fork the soil to collect and destroy the chrysalids of looper and bunch caterpillars in infested areas.
- (d) Give alkaline wash to remove lichens and mosses alongwith pupae of some insects from bush frame.

# February

## 1. Nursery

- (a) Clonal : Complete preparation of beds by end of the month for spring propagation. For sleeve nursery, fill the sleeves with soil. Water or irrigate the autumn planted cuttings. If there is shoot growth of about 5 cm, gradually thin out the shade if necessary.
- (b) Seed : Complete ploughing/hoeing and weeding for next year's nursery. Water or irrigate if necessary.
- (c) Shade : Sow seeds if there has been rain or there is provision for irrigation.

## 2. Planting

- (a) Tea : In droughty areas do not plant. In non-droughty areas do not plant without irrigation facilities or unless there has been sufficient rain to moisten soil to a depth of 45 cm.
- (b) Shade : Do not plant in droughty areas. In non-droughty areas planting can be started by third week of February.

## 3. Pruning and skiffing

- (a) Young tea : Thumb prune or de-centre the autumn planted plants. Complete frame forming prune within first fortnight.
- (b) Mother bushes : Prune the clonal mother bushes in the early part of the month for July propagation.

## 4. Manuring

- (a) Mature and young tea : If the tea is under irrigation or there has been sufficient rain in non-droughty areas, manure unpruned, level-off or light skiffed mature and young teas by end of the month. Continue spraying MOP if droughty conditions prevail.
- (b) Nursery plants : Spray MOP if droughty conditions prevail.

## 5. Plucking

Give one round of plucking to remove banjhl shoots in tea left unpruned during early part of the month.

## 6. Rehabilitation and green crops

Prepare land for planting of rehabilitation and green crops.

## 7. Mulching

Mulch the newly planted areas.

#### **8. Drainage**

Complete cleaning, deepening and/or regrading of the drains by end of the month.

#### **9. Weed control and cultivation**

(a) Chemical : Do not start.

(b) Manual : Complete uprooting of ferns and other hardy weeds, and destroy their roots by composting.

Continue cheeling in non-droughty and sickling in droughty areas where manual weed control is practised.

Spread the cheeled material evenly on ground to avoid formation of ridges and furrows.

(c) Ground levelling, where necessary, should be done.

(d) Fork/light hoe after cut across/medium pruning specially in heavy textured soil to improve soil aeration. Defer these operations to March in drought prone areas.

#### **10. Pest and disease control**

Continue to check for initial infestation of red spider and other mites and spray if observed.

Control *Helopeltis*, thrips, jassids, red slug caterpillar, aphids, scale insects, mealy bugs, etc, if they appear. If infested by *Helopeltis*, pluck off infested shoots even from below the table.

Hand collection and light trapping of looper and red slug caterpillar moths.

Complete cold weather operations.

Complete control measures against termites.

Undertake insecticidal spraying in Seed Bar.

# March

## 1. Nursery

- (a) Clonal : Provide shade over beds for spring propagation. Start thinning out shade, if necessary, in autumn nursery. Water or irrigate if required.
- (b) Seed : Do weeding and watering in afternoon hours if necessary.
- (c) Shade : Sow seeds and keep moist.

## 2. Planting

- (a) Tea : If soil is moist, start spring planting and infilling in medium pruned areas.
- (b) Shade : Start planting of shade if soil is moist.  
In young tea where temporary shade of *Indigofera teysmanii* is not being used, plant quick growing shade species like *Albizia chinensis*/*Leucaena leucocephala*/*Melia azedarach* (Mixed) at closer spacing of 4.5-5 m to be thinned out to 9-10 m within 5 years.  
In areas to be cut-back/medium pruned if shade is not enough, fast growing shade species need to be planted (For details refer to Field Management in Tea, 1994)

## 3. Pruning and skiffing

- Thumb prune or decentre the autumn planted plants.
- Remove "breather" in medium prune tea by mid March.

## 4. Manuring

- If soil is sufficiently moist following pre-monsoon showers, apply fertilizers to all mature teas. Start with unpruned and then go to skiffed and pruned teas. If there is a dry spell, continue foliar spray of nutrients.
- Apply YTD mixture in young tea.
- Manure nursery plants, if required.

## 5. Plucking

- Continue plucking unpruned tea. Tip and pluck level - off, light and medium skiffed teas. Start tipping of deep skiffed and pruned teas.

## 6. Rehabilitation and green crops

- Plant rehabilitation crops with the start of pre-monsoon rains.
- Sow seeds of green crops in every row particularly where soil fertility status is not satisfactory and where land is slopy.

## 7. Mulching

- Mulch all newly planted areas.

## 8. Drainage

- If cleaning, deepening and regrading of drains have not been completed, complete within this month.

#### 9. Weed control and cultivation

- (a) Chemical : If pre-emergent herbicides are being used, spray now and before the weeds emerge. In other areas spray post-emergent herbicides as soon as there is active weed growth.  
Spray herbicides in drains if there are weeds, but the drain edges should not be sprayed.
- (b) Manual : Continue uprooting of hardy weeds by hand. Where manual weed control is practised, continue sickling in droughty areas and cheeling in non-droughty areas.
- (c) Ground levelling, where necessary, should be done.
- (d) In drought prone areas, fork/light hoe the cut across/medium pruned areas specially in heavy textured soil to improve soil aeration.

#### 10. Pest and disease control

Control mites, *Helopeltis*, thrips, flush worms, bunch caterpillar, looper caterpillar, red slug caterpillar, scale insects, mealy bugs, aphids, etc. if noticed.

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Control nursery pests-aphids, jassids, scale insects, mites etc. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard. Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulations can be used for blanket application if necessary.

In areas prone to canker, spray suitable insecticides on shade tree both in field and nursery. Look for membracids and leaf eating caterpillars on young shade trees and control these.

Remove two years old *Tephrosia* before red rust spores appear.

Grow hedges of *Phlogacanthus thrysiflorus* (Titaphool) on road sides to protect from dust.

Hand collect looper and bunch caterpillars and use light trap for moths.

Against blister blight, spray copper fungicide at 7-10 days interval till the weather becomes hot and sunny. Spray copper fungicide in red rust affected areas.

Undertake insecticidal spraying in Seed Bar.



# April

## Y

- onal : Water or irrigate autumn nursery as and when necessary.  
Complete bed preparation for autumn propagation and keep under mulch cover-  
age.  
Start planting of cuttings from end April for spring propagation.
- ed : Remove mulch as soon as the dry spell is over. Water or irrigate if the dry spell  
continues.
- ade : Complete sowing of seeds.

## ng

- xa : Start spring planting and infilling.
- ade : Continue planting.

## ig and skiffing

o prune or decentre the autumn planted tea till middle of the month. Check starch reserve in  
before cutting.

## ring

- urseries plants : If the growth is poor, apply YTD mixture or foliar nutrients.
- oung tea : Continue application of YTD mixture.
- ature tea : Complete fertilizer application by first week except medium pruned areas.  
Apply zinc as foliar spray on unpruned and light skiffed teas towards the end  
of first flush.

## ing

nue tipping of pruned tea and pluck other teas. Tip young teas.  
a leaf in debilitated unpruned tea towards the end of first flush.  
unpruned tea in shorter rounds and remove the banjhis.

## bilitation and green crops

plete planting of rehabilitation crops.

## hing

lnue mulching newly planted areas.

## age

the drains weed free.

## d control

- Chemical : Apply pre-emergent herbicide on clean/cheeled and moist soil and post-  
emergent herbicides on active growth of weeds not more than 15 cm height. Do  
not apply pre-emergent herbicides on teela/slopes.

Do not spray herbicides on drain edges but spray on weeds growing inside the drains.

- (b) Manual : Continue weeding. If necessary, in flat areas where manual weed control is practised. On teelas and slopes, continue hand sickling.

#### 10. Pest and disease control

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum or no residue hazard.

Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Control *Helopeltis*, mites, bunch caterpillar, looper caterpillar, red slug caterpillar, thrips, jassids and aphids as and when necessary. Control the canker causing insects *Agilus beesonii* and *Cryptorhynchus* sp.

Spray against aphids, jassids, thrips and scale insects in the nursery.

Hand collection of bunch caterpillar and light trapping of moths.

If there is blister blight, spray copper fungicide at 7-10 days interval till the weather becomes hot and sunny.

Spray copper fungicide against red rust and black rot.

# May

- nal : Continue planting of cuttings.
- d : Lop and thin out the green crops grown in the nursery towards end May.
- de : Check for pests and diseases.

- l : Continue spring planting and infilling.
- de : Complete planting in non-droughty areas.

## and skiffing

re the young plants and remove strong central branch(es) if necessary, provided starch in roots is adequate.

## ig

- ery plants : Apply foliar nutrients.
- ing tea : Apply YTD mixture.
- ture tea : Complete application of fertilizers to medium pruned tea.

## g

re hard plucking of unpruned, level-off and light skiffed teas and remove banjhis. Maintain a sking table.

## ilitation and green crops

eding if necessary.  
t the green crops grown for shade in young tea areas as per necessity.

## ig

re mulching in newly planted areas.

## ge

he drains if there is any silting.

## Control

- emical : Continue 1st round of herbicide spraying if not done in April.  
Keep the drains and hola sides weed free.
- inual : Cheel in flat lands and sickle in teela slopes as and when necessary where manual weed control is practised.

## id disease control

acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other cal products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only mended products with minimum residue hazard.

Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Spray the nurseries against mites, aphids, jassids, thrips and scale insects if noticed.

Control bunch caterpillar, mites, looper caterpillar, *Helopeltis*, thrips and jassids as and when necessary.

Against blister blight, spray copper fungicide at 7-10 days interval till the weather becomes hot and sunny.

Spray copper fungicide against red rust, black rot and nursery diseases.

Undertake insecticide and fungicide spraying in Seed Bar.

# June

## ry

- lonal : Continue planting of cuttings. Check for drip damage. Keep if clean weeded.
- eed : Lop and thin out the green crops in end June.
- ade : Keep clean weeded and free of pests.

## ng

- ia : Complete spring planting and infilling.
- ade : Complete planting.

## g and skiffing

- skiff the clonal mother bushes during early part of the month to take cuttings in September.
- prune, decentre or debud the spring planted plants. Remove selectively the strong central
- criss-cross branches of the autumn planted plants at the time of tipping.

## ing

- YTD mixture to young tea.
- ure tea apply second split of fertilizers where split application is followed, but defer it to
- umber in waterlogged areas.
- ak and waterlogged tea areas spray urea, DAP, MOP mixture.

## ng

- ve banjhs while plucking. Maintain a flat plucking table.

## ilitation and green crops

- If necessary.
- digofera in young tea areas. The green crop should be cut at ground level when they attain
- ht of say 150 cm and left *in situ*.

## ing

- the newly planted areas.

## ge

- and clean the drains if there is waterlogging. Dig isolation drains where necessary.
- gging inspection pits for water table studies. Start recording of water table build-up in areas
- ted to be waterlogged.

## control

- hemical : Spray 2nd round of herbicide as per necessity. Do not spray on drain edges.
- anual : Repeat weeding as and when necessary where manual weed control is prac
- tised. Continue sickling on teela slopes.

#### 10 Pest and disease control

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard.

Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Spray the nurseries against pests and diseases if noticed.

Scarlet mite, red slug, looper, bunch and green caterpillar population may be high. Look out for these pests and give palliative spraying.

Control *Helopeltis*, thrips and jassids as and when necessary.

Spray copper fungicide against red rust.

Undertake insecticide and fungicide spraying in Seed Bari.

# July

## weeding

- Clonal : Complete planting of cuttings. Repair drip damage. Keep clean by weeding.
- Seed : Keep clean by weeding.
- Shade : Keep clean by weeding.

## planting

- Tea : Do not plant.
- Shade : Do not plant.

## Pruning and skiffing

- skiff clonal mother bushes for October-November propagation in early part of the month.
- prune, de-centre or debud the spring planted plants. Remove selectively strong central and/or cross-branches of the autumn planted plants.

## Fertilising

- Young tea : Apply YTD mixture.
- Mature tea : Continue foliar nutrients to tea under waterlogged conditions where the leaves have turned yellowish.  
Apply NPK mixture to deep skiffed clonal mother bushes with new foliage.

## Plucking

- pluck banjhis while plucking. Maintain a flat plucking table.

## Soil cultivation and green crops

- where necessary.

## Planting

- late mulching in the newly planted areas.

## Drainage

- and clean the drains wherever necessary. Start recording of water table build-up in areas suspected to be waterlogged.
- check inspection pits for observation of water table.

## Pest control

- Chemical: Repeat application of weedicide where necessary.
- Mechanical : Repeat cheeling/sickling where necessary.

## Disease control

- fungicides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanicals and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only registered products with minimum residue hazard.

Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Spray the nurseries against pests and diseases if noticed.

Control *Helopeltis* and other pests, if they persist.

Complete copper fungicide spraying against red rust by the end of this month.



## August

- nal : Weed the V. P. beds. Start gradual removal of shade from the spring propagated beds. Repair drip damage.  
Remove all undecomposed materials from the beds for September/October propagation. Provide shade to the beds.
- d : Remove all the green crops by the second week.
- de : Weed If necessary.

- : Do not plant.
- de : Do not plant.

### and skiffing

prune, decentre or debud the spring planted plants. Remove selectively strong central and ss branches at the time of tipping.

### g

- ery plants : Continue applying YTD mixture. Apply foliar nutrients if the plants look weak.
- ng tea : Apply YTD mixture. Apply foliar nutrients if the plants look weak.
- ure tea : Apply NPK mixture to deep skiffed clonal mother bushes with new foliage. Apply foliar nutrients to tea under waterlogged condition where the leaves have turned yellowish.

ny extra creep and maintain a flat plucking table.

### ation and green crops necessary.

### l

n mulching where necessary.

### l

nd clear the drains wherever necessary.

o checking inspection pits for observation of water table.

### ontrol

- nical : Repeat application of weedicide where necessary. Do not spray on drain edges.
- ual : Repeat cheeling/sickling if required.

#### 10 Pest and disease control

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard. Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Spray the nurseries against pests if they still persist.

Continue spraying against *Helopeltis* where necessary.

Do spot application of acaricide if red spider and other mites are still prevalent.

Hand collection and light trapping of moths of looper caterpillar.

In areas prone to canker, spray young shade tree plants in the field and the nursery when the canker causing insects *Agrilus beesoni* and *Cryptorhynchus* sp. are active and laying eggs.

Spray copper fungicide against black rot if appear.

Undertake insecticidal spraying in Seed Bari.

## September

- nal : Start planting of cuttings from about middle of the month.  
Thin out shade from the beds of spring propagation having sufficient shoot growth.
- ad : Keep clean by weeding.
- ide : Keep clean by weeding.

]

- i : Start planting in plains and cool teela slopes. Do not plant on southern/south-western slopes of Cachar and other droughty areas.
- ide : Do not plant.

### and skiffing

prune or skiff.

ng

- rsery plants : Continue YTD mixture application and/or apply foliar nutrients if the growth is poor.
- ung tea : Apply YTD mixture. Spray NPK mixture or zinc and urea where necessary.
- sture tea : Apply 2nd split of fertilizers in waterlogged areas and 3rd split of fertilizers where 3 splits are followed.  
Apply zinc as foliar spray in the beginning of autumn flush.  
Apply foliar nutrients (NPK) to tea under waterlogged conditions where leaves have turned yellowish.

ig

- ed/deep skiffed tea pluck only mature shoots leaving small 1+Bud shoots and pluck on to the t points to fill up depressions if any.
- uned/light skiffed tea pluck black for one round towards end of the month to remove the s.

### illitation and green crops

own the rehabilitation and green crops which have been in fields for last two years on uprooted

ing

ish mulching more particularly in drought prone areas.

ige

: and clean the drains wherever necessary. Continue recording of water table build-up in the tion pits.

#### 9. Weed control

- (a) Chemical : Continue weedicide spraying as per necessity.  
If the use of pre-emergent herbicide during autumn is included in the programme, spray on moist clean ground.
- (b) Manual : Cheel/sickle as and when necessary where manual weed control is practised. On slopy land sickling is advised.

#### 10. Pest and disease control

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard. Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Spray the nurseries against pests if these still persist.

Check for red spider and other mites. Do spot spraying where necessary.

Continue spraying against *Helopeltis*.

Control looper and red slug caterpillars and aphids if they appear. Hand collect the looper and red slug moths and also use light trap.

Control canker causing insects *Agilus beesonii* and *Cryptorrhynchus* sp. spraying young shade plants in nursery and field.

Continue spraying against black rot in infested areas.

Undertake insecticidal spraying in Seed Bar.

## October

- al : Continue planting of cuttings.
- : Remove all undecomposed woody parts of green crops and prepare the beds for sowing seeds.
- For sleeve nursery, fill the sleeves and water sufficiently.
- e : Weed if necessary.

- : Continue planting.
- e : Do not plant.

### nd skiffing

clonal mother bushes from mid October for April-June propagation.

- ry plants : Apply foliar nutrients if required.
- g tea : Apply foliar nutrients if required.
- re tea : Apply zinc as foliar spray in pruned and deep skiffed teas in the beginning of autumn flush.

due creep in plucking. Step up by one leaf if maintenance foliage is unhealthy or inadequate for unprune.

bushes to be medium pruned.

### ation and green crops

r the rehabilitation and green crops which have been in fields for two years.

green crop grown for shade in young tea to reduce competition.

newly planted areas.

needs to be done.

### ntrol

- nical : Do spot application if necessary.
- If the use of pre-emergent herbicides during autumn is included in the programme, spray on moist clean ground.
- ual : Cheel/sickle if necessary where manual weed control is practised.

#### 10. Pest and disease control

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard. Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides before use.

Check for red spider and other mites and do spot spraying if necessary.

Continue spraying against *Helopeltis*. Hand collect or use light trap for red slug, looper and bunch caterpillar moths.

Spray the black rot infected areas to suppress sclerotial formation.

# November

## **seeding**

- Clonal : Complete planting of cuttings by middle of the month. Water or irrigate when necessary.
- Seed : Sow seeds. Water or irrigate when necessary
- Shade : Do not sow seeds. Water or irrigate when necessary.

## **planting**

- Tea : Continue planting in non-droughty areas and complete by second week in droughty areas.
- Shade : Do not plant.

## **pruning and skiffing**

In non-droughty areas, start light pruning from mid November. Indopaste the large cuts within 48 hrs. In droughty areas, do not start.  
Trim the clonal mother bushes for spring propagation and knife clean thoroughly.  
Apply alkaline wash on the bush frame soon after pruning where necessary.

## **inuring**

Apply foliar spray of MOP in the dry spell.

## **checking**

Check off banjhl shoots carefully. Complete stepping-up in sections to be left unpruned next year.  
List the bushes to be medium pruned from early part of the month if not already done.

## **habilitation and green crops**

Nothing needs to be done.

## **irrigating**

Irrigate the newly planted areas.

## **drainage**

Start cleaning, deepening and regrading of the drains.  
Start marking contour drains on teela slopes.

## **weed control**

- > not spray.
- > not chisel.

## **pest and disease control**

Use of acaricides and insecticides **must be** restricted to only infested patches. Neem or other botanical products and sulphur formulation can be used for blanket application if necessary. Use only recommended products with minimum residue hazard. Check the established M.R.L.'s for pesticides

before use.

Control mites, bunch and red slug caterpillars, if they appear.

Start hand collection of red slug and bunch caterpillars chrysalids from fork of the branch or fold of the leaf or dry fallen leaves on the ground.

Spray the black rot infected areas to suppress formation of sclerotia.



## December

- ial : Water or Irrigate when necessary.
- d : Continue sowing of seeds. Water or Irrigate If necessary.
- de : Water or Irrigate when necessary.

- : Complete autumn planting in non-droughty areas.
- de : Do not plant.

### and skiffing

- it pruning : Continue pruning in non-droughty areas. In droughty areas start the operation in mid-December.
- dium pruning : Start medium pruning during mid to end December. Apply Indopaste to all large cuts within 48 hours of the prune. Leave "breathers" in medium pruned tea.
- ep skiffing : In non-droughty areas, start deep skiffing from middle of the month. In droughty areas, do not start this work.
- ther bushes : Prune clonal mother bushes for May/June propagation by 1st week.
- aning out : Complete hand debanjhi, knife and hand cleaning out in pruned/deep skiffed areas.
- aline wash : Apply alkaline wash on the bush frame after pruning where necessary.

### ng

llar application of MOP in dry spell on teas to be left unpruned.

### g

t slightly extended round. Prepare a flat and compact plucking surface by filling up slons/empty pockets in sections to be kept unpruned.

lucking by first or second week in non-droughty areas and by end of the month in droughty

### litation and green crops

g needs to be done.

### ng

the newly planted areas.

### ge

deepen and regrade the drains. Continue contour survey and marking of drains. Start contour in areas to be planted out in spring.

**9. Weed control**

Do not spray.

Do not chisel.

**10. Pest and disease control**

Check the nurseries for pests and spray suitable pesticides if noticed.

Take steps for termite control in infested areas after pruning. Remove earth runs, dead and dying branches. Indopaste the cut surfaces. Spray pesticide after forking the soil in collar region of bushes and irrigate, if possible.

Collection of chrysalids of bunch and red slug caterpillars from dried leaves on the ground, from fork of the bush and fold of leaves.

Light trapping or hand collection of red slug caterpillar moths.

